



Briefly

Major promotions

Congratulations to the following captains promoted to major: Louis Alden, 9th Fighter Squadron, Todd Andre, 49th Maintenance Group, Gary Beene, 9th FS, Scott Cain, 49th Operations Group, Lamar Coleman, 49th Fighter Wing, Charles Cosnowski, 7th Combat Training Squadron, Steven Gibson, 49th Materiel Maintenance Group, Terri Gonderman, 49th Communications Squadron, Michael Goodwin, 46th Test Group, Alex Jernigan, 8th Fighter Squadron, Steven Mathew 4th Space Control Squadron, James McGlone, 8th FS, Phillip Parker, 49th CS, Robert Strenger, 49th Operations Support Squadron and Michelle Wine, 49th Medical Operations Squadron.

Prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is 7 a.m., March 18 at the enlisted club. Tickets are \$5.

Dorm policy

The 49th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt initiated a policy effective now.

- No single E-3 or below will move off base without approval of the wing vice commander.
- E-4s will have the opportunity to move off base. Unit commanders are responsible for managing occupancy.
- No E-3s already off base will be required to move back on base, unless a unit commander determines that member is not mature enough to handle off base responsibilities.



Photo by Airman Larry Reid

The 14th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray dined with 49th Maintenance Group airmen Feb. 27 at the Shifting Sands Dining Facility. The 49th MXG invited Chief Murray to speak at the annual Maintenance Personnel of the Year banquet. He also toured the base.

CMSAF visits Holloman AFB

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visited Holloman Feb. 26 to Saturday to speak at Holloman's annual Maintenance Professionals of the Year banquet at the Oasis Enlisted Club.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray, who spent a majority of his career in the maintenance career field, was a first-class choice for speakers at the banquet, according to 49th Maintenance Group Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Joe Loera.

"It was a very important thing for Chief Murray to speak at the banquet," Chief Loera said. "Last March when we

began to plan this year's banquet, I knew we wanted Chief Murray to speak because he started out as a crew chief and progressed through the maintainer's ranks. It means so much to be able to speak face-to-face with the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

Chief Murray said the banquet complimented force development by recognizing individuals.

"Award banquets, such as these, motivate all of our people," he said. "It shows that not only does the Air Force recognize its airmen for their superb job, but it inspires others to do the best they can. We are at war today against global terrorism and getting the best from our airmen is exactly what we need."

Chief Murray entered the Air Force

in October 1977 and trained to become an aircraft crew chief. He took on the position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in July 2002.

In addition to speaking at the banquet, Chief Murray also visited several other units and facilities including the fitness center, the 46th Test Group, the dining facility and the flight line.

One stop the Air Force's top enlisted man made was to the 49th Materiel Maintenance Group Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resource base facility to get a first-hand look at the people and equipment deployed Air Force members rely on. After Sept. 11, 2001, BEAR Base personnel deployed for

see CMSAF on Page 5



High: 57
Low: 34
TODAY



High: 65
Low: 30
SATURDAY



High: 68
Low: 30
SUNDAY



High: 70
Low: 32
MONDAY

Women's history month: a time to remember

by Mr. Donald Larsen
49th Maintenance Group

March marks National Women's History month and Team Holloman women are speaking out.

The 49th Fighter Wing commander's secretary, Ms. Barbara Shaeffer has been a part of the military for many years. She was an Air Force wife, so with constant moves, it was easy for her to get civil service jobs at each base.

"Working for the Air Force became wonderful," she said. "Every day is a different and uplifting experience."

While Ms. Shaeffer is a fan of the Air Force, there are also challenges.

"The constant change is a challenge," she said. "Every two years I get a new boss and have to adapt to each way of doing business. Change is good, and helps me grow in my work and personal life."

Working as the wing commander's secretary is a great accomplishment in Ms. Shaeffer's career.

She said working for dynamic leaders and earning

their trust is so wonderful. Playing a part in, and experience what it takes to run a fighter wing is a privilege and honor.

Not only is it an honor working for the commander, but Ms. Shaeffer said the people inspire her.

"I'm inspired by the people ... the wonderful people," she said. "They'll deploy anywhere in a moment's notice, putting their lives on hold, and leaving their families behind to serve their country. I greatly admire the people, and they inspire me to do my absolute best for them and the Air Force."

Not only is Ms. Shaeffer inspired by troops today, but also women in history.

She has two favorite women in history, Ms. Rosalynn Carter and Ms. Rosa Parks.

Ms. Shaeffer said Ms. Carter was a First Lady that did her own thing. She believed in a caring society and used her position to support causes important to her, like the homeless and mentally challenged. She worked as a team with the president. She continues, along with her husband, to help so many people, in-

cluding the homeless and those less fortunate. Ms. Shaeffer also said she admires Ms. Parks for the sheer guts and determination she has. Her courage has done so much to eliminate discrimination and inequality in our country.

Not only has equality for women evolved in America, but also in the Air Force. Ms. Shaeffer said the Air Force climate change allows women to serve and work in any capacity serve as a fighter pilot, attend the Air Force Academy and serve in combat missions.

For the next generation of women, Ms. Shaeffer said, "do the best you can. If you make mistakes, move on."

This year's National Women's History Month theme is Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility.

"Hopefully, the younger women in will see, admire and be inspired by the leadership, courage, accomplishments and professionalism of today's women as well as by the female pioneers of the past," Ms. Shaeffer said. "The social barriers of the past have largely been eliminated, giving today's women endless possibilities."

Holloman Hotline 572-7500



The Hotline is your direct link to the 49th Fighter Wing commander.

If you've tried to solve the problem yourself and haven't been able to get results, call 572-7500 or e-mail cc_hotline@holloman.af.mil. Before submitting a Hotline, please give the appropriate agencies a chance to work out the problem.

Child care on base

Q: There have been many concerns surrounding the cost of child care on base. Considering the quality of service the Child Development Centers offer, I have no problem with the prices. I do have a very serious problem with

the availability of full-time child care. We have a 5-year-old and a 2-year-old. We've been told there is absolutely no availability for our 2-year-old. When asked when an opening would be available, we were informed it would be several months. We have looked at every care center in the Family Child Care Referral listing and are appalled that many of these were even considered viable options to care for our future. High quality child care is paramount!

What is being, or can be done to increase the capabilities of the CDC's on base?

A:

You are correct. We have a shortage of spaces in the Child Development Center, especially for children 2 years and under. We have a proposed construction project to enlarge or build a new Child Development Center to handle the shortage of care spaces, but that project is only in the planning process. In the

meantime, we work hard to ensure the most efficient use of faculties and personnel to provide as many child care slots as possible. Child care costs are kept to the minimum possible! We don't make a profit in the CDC — we're very happy to break even there.

We do all we can to ensure on-base Family Child Care homes provide the same quality service as the CDC, setting them a notch above most off-base providers. Each caregiver is trained and certified, is subject to regular inspections, and is expected to maintain a high standard. We have many caregivers who work hard to provide quality care to our base children, and for that, I am very thankful.

I'm sorry that in the short term, we won't have more spaces in the CDC than we have now. If off-base care is not up to what you expect, call our base family child care coordinator at 572-5848 to help you with the only real option available in the short term.

DUI Update

Days since last DUI **14**
DUIs this year **16**
This week last year **12**

Last six DUIs

- 49 MMS Feb. 21
- 8 AMU Feb. 16
- 49 MMS Feb. 13
- 49 LRS Feb. 8
- 49 CS Feb. 7
- 49 CS Feb. 2

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

271 Saves this year
29 Saves this week



Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt 49th Fighter Wing commander
Maj. John Bryan Public Affairs director
1st Lt. Nora Eyle Public Affairs deputy director
Tech. Sgt. Paul Coupaud NCOIC
Senior Airman Martha Whipple Editor
Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier Staff writer
Laura Pellegrino Staff writer

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarayuth Pinthong

Airman 1st Class Christopher Stoup and Staff Sgt. Ronald Wilson, both with the 49th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, clear a bomb site during a weapons cache exercise as part of Eagle Flag, held at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, N.J., Feb. 23 to 27.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nora Eyle

Capt. Woody Boyd, 49th Security Forces Operations officer, takes down concertina wire during the Eagle Flag exercise at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, N.J.

Airmen return from Eagle Flag exercise

by 1st Lt. Nora Eyle
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 150 Holloman airmen returned from a week-long exercise at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, N.J., Feb 27, where they exercised the ability to establish a bare base, perform command and control functions and open an airfield.

The Air Force Chief of Staff-level exercise Eagle Flag included a pre-deployment stay at Fort Dix, N.J. Team Holloman members learned what it was like to deploy to a hostile area, live and work in the tents, built from a bare base, and work long hours in temperatures that averaged in the teens.

The commander of the simulated 421st Air Expeditionary Group, Col. Raymond Dinsmore established the fictional Wainmac Air Base in the country of Chimaera. Colonel Dinsmore, 49th Mission Support Group commander, had two measures of merit for success for the exercise: safety and discipline.

“Eagle Flag was as close to a real deployment as you can get”, said 1st Lt. Conor Grace, 49th CES Readiness officer. “Everyone worked hard to complete the mission. Often people worked two and three jobs at the same time. Team Holloman members should be proud of what they accomplished at Eagle Flag.”

“We worked hard and I believe we accomplished our goal: to prepare and be ready for lead wing responsibilities in AEF 9,” Colonel Dinsmore said.

After safety and discipline, enthusiasm and effort were the next measures of success, he said. With that combination, Team Holloman was able to set a standard of excellence at Eagle Flag, the colonel said.



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

In the driver's seat

Brig. Gen. Toreaser A. Steele, Headquarters Army and Air Force Exchange Service vice commander, visited Holloman to speak at the African-American Heritage luncheon Feb. 27. Lt. Col. Cedric George, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, gave the general a tour of the maintenance group and briefed her on the F-117A Nighthawk mission as she tested out the pilot's seat.

CMSAF *Continued from Page One*

Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom to provide the initial construction for the deployed members who followed. Some deployments were longer than the standard 90 days. Chief Murray said that a majority of the force will return to stabilized 90-day deployments.

"A 90-day deployment is the most ideal situation for the majority of our airmen today," Chief Murray said. "The Air Force is heavily committed around the world. Some airmen, based on their jobs, will deploy less and some will deploy longer. We are continuing to adapt to the AEF concept. Our people need to know that it will only get better."

The chief went on to say he sees Team Holloman members continuing to be a model of air and space power.

"Holloman is a shining example of how our people keep the Air Force the best in the

world," Chief Murray said.

The world's best Air Force has stepped up its fitness standards. He visited during the wing-wide fitness test Feb. 27. He said Holloman commanders were reflecting what other commanders were doing around the Air Force.

"The total force has responded well to the new fitness standards," Chief Murray said. "We are beginning to see a cultural change in the Air Force. Fitness centers have had a 30-percent increase in usage in the last quarter. From what I hear around the Air Force, people are very excited about the new standards."

Over all, Chief Murray said he has a very favorable impression of Holloman and the community.

"I've enjoyed my time at Holloman immensely," he said. "I have come away with a great appreciation for what people are doing here as a team, as a base and a community."

MDG improves patient safety

by Laura Pellegrino
Sunburst staff writer

For most people, a visit to the doctor means taking a step toward recovery.

However, each year, approximately 44,000 people die from medical errors such as incorrect prescriptions or physician or patient errors.

At Holloman, the 49th Medical Group is minimizing the risks associated with medical treatment through the Patient Safety Program and National Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 8 to 12.

"The Patient Safety Program is critical to make sure our staff focuses on patient care processes and makes them as safe as possible," said Lt. Col. Leslie Ness, 49th Medical Support Squadron commander. "The program concentrates on making sure we do all the right things prior to the patient getting the lab test or the prescription, or even making sure our sidewalks are safe to walk on and there are no tripping hazards."

Ms. Shelley Drake, Patient Safety Program manager, said the program is about preventing errors. But first, the errors need to be identified.

All errors made by the medical staff, even those that never reach the patient, are reported into a computer system. The computer tracks the errors, which allows Ms. Drake to examine their causes.

The Patient Safety Program has already helped correct an error which could have been a serious safety issue, Ms. Drake said.

At the pharmacy, a patient's identification was determined by scanning their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System ID card into a computer. In November, DEERS made a change to the dependent ID cards so that when they were scanned, they showed the patient's sponsor's information instead of the patient's information.

The pharmacy reported the error to Ms. Drake, who then reported it through the patient safety chain. Within a few weeks, a software patch was administered to correct the problem.

"This problem was occurring across the Department of Defense," Ms. Drake said. "Thanks to our lab at Holloman, the problem has

been corrected DoD-wide."

According to Ms. Drake, patient safety is not only dependent on the physician, hospital or pharmacy. It is also dependent on individuals.

"Patients must take an active role in their health care, and this includes pointing out to medical staff when they see something that should be fixed, when they receive a prescription that's incorrect, etcetera," Colonel Ness said. "Patients are part of the health care delivery process and are vital to making sure it's safe."

Some errors patients make include not reading the instructions on prescriptions, not taking prescribed medications or not following up with a doctor after lab tests have been administered.

During National Patient Safety Awareness Week, brochures and posters in the clinic will inform the public on ways they can be involved in patient safety. Medical staff will wear buttons that read "Ask me" and will be available to answer questions about patient safety.

For more information about the Patient Safety Program, call Ms. Shelley Drake at 572-5459.

Force shaping deadline closes in

Nearly 1,250 airmen have applied to leave the Air Force early under 'Force Shaping.' As the March 12 application deadline draws near, officials looking to trim the force by more than 16,000 are encouraging airmen of all ranks to take a careful look at options to retire or separate earlier than they might otherwise have been allowed.

"It isn't for everyone. But we think this program offers some Air Force members what they may be looking for a way to transition from active duty and move on with the next challenge in their life," said Col. Phil Odom, chief of Air Force separations and retirements.

The early-out program is off to a slower start than officials had hoped. Under the plan, the exit doors were opened to many officers and enlisted by waiving some active-duty service commitments and relaxing certain restrictions for transition to the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

Some bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials said.

"Leaving the active duty force is a big deci-

sion, so people may be taking time to research their options to make the right decision for themselves and their families," said Maj. Dawn Keasley, chief of retirement and separation policy at the Air Staff. "Should they choose to continue their service by transitioning to the Guard or Reserve [through the Palace Chase program], or depart the force by obtaining a service commitment waiver, the application window will be open until March 12."

So far, 289 applications have been approved for either early retirement or separation or the Palace Chase program, said Colonel Odom.

Of those, 120 enlisted and seven officer applications have been accepted for early separation or retirement.

More information about the Guard can be found at www.ang.af.mil. Reserve information is online at www.afrc.af.mil. Those considering work with the U.S. government can check the Office of Personnel Management's website at http://www.opm.gov/Career_Opportunities/index.asp to browse career opportunities. (AFPN)

Women’s History Month

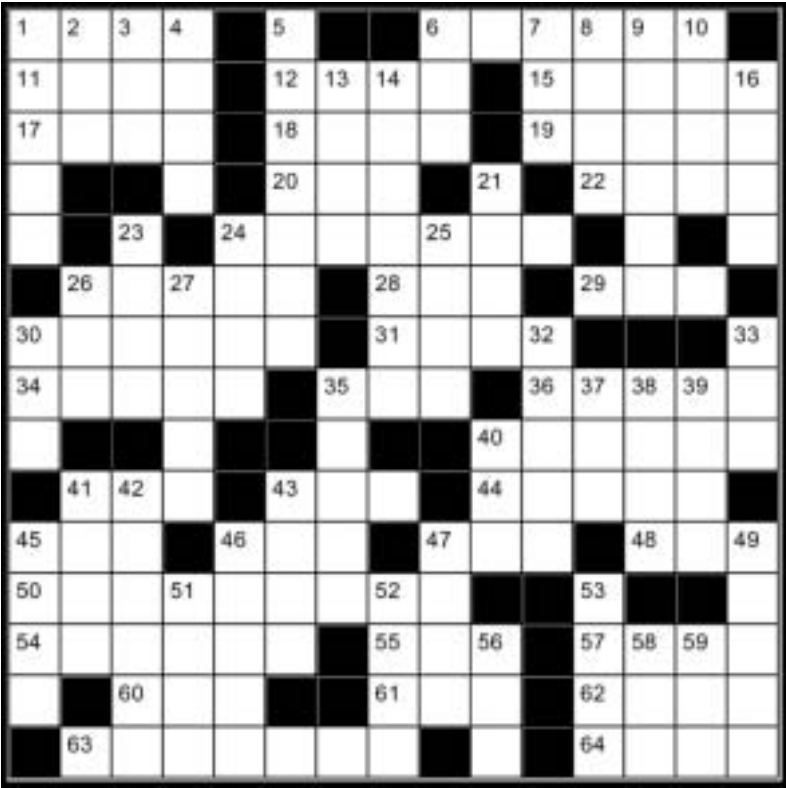
ACROSS

- 1. Lady
 - 6. First woman elected to the US House of Representatives (1916)
 - 11. Regretted
 - 12. Killer whale
 - 15. Craves
 - 17. Stare
 - 18. Condemn
 - 19. Rubber
 - 20. Blockade
 - 22. Star Trek character
 - 24. Woman who established first charitable organization for women
 - 26. French cubist painter Fernand _____
 - 28. Oklahoma town
 - 29. Cash machine
 - 30. Runner-up place
 - 31. Lairs
 - 34. First native born American woman to be made a saint (1809)
 - 35. Military pay statement
 - 36. Small restaurant
 - 40. First woman elected mayor in America (1887)
 - 41. Intimidate
 - 43. Direction to NY from Texas
 - 44. Beneath
 - 45. Actor Vigoda
 - 46. Part of a min.
 - 47. Terminate
 - 48. French lady (abbrev.)
 - 50. First US woman with a medical degree (1849)
 - 54. Wisconsin college
 - 55. Type
 - 57. First woman US governor—Wyoming (1925)
 - 60. Italian three
 - 61. Snakelike fish
 - 62. Bet
 - 63. First woman to win a Pulitzer Prize (1921)
 - 64. Golf props
- DOWN
- 1. Sag

- 2. Summer mon.
- 3. Singer Torme
- 4. Steinbeck novel, *East of _____*
- 5. First woman publisher in America (1766)
- 6. Aries sign
- 7. National radio network (abbrev.)
- 8. First US woman to receive a patent (1809)
- 9. Slight
- 10. Apollo 11 astronaut Armstrong
- 13. Bellow
- 14. Cohort
- 16. Ostracize
- 21. USAF Korea AB
- 23. Faction
- 24. Actor Sean of *Sam I Am*
- 25. Beware the _____ of March; *Julius Ceasar*
- 26. Confederate general
- 27. First African-American woman to receive a patent (1885)
- 30. Compass direction

- 32. Frequency used for video satellite feed
- 33. Each
- 35. Cyclist Armstrong
- 37. Ancient
- 38. Object
- 39. Duration
- 40. Center of the solar system
- 41. Competent
- 42. Affluence
- 43. Salamander
- 45. Women’s suffragist _____Hadassah Smith
- 46. What Tommy Moe is
- 47. Woman’s magazine

- 49. Relieves
- 51. Actress Witherspoon of *Twilight*
- 52. Garnishment
- 53. Spoiled child
- 56. Dutch airlines
- 58. Single
- 59. Sault ____ Marie





Photos by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

Reporting for duty

Above: Tad Meneffe, call sign T-Man, salutes his wingman 8th Fighter Squadron F-117A Pilot, Capt. Jim McGlone. Tad, Holloman's Pilot For a Day Feb. 26, traveled from Artesia, N.M., to try his hand at being a pilot. Cystic Fibrosis didn't hold this "go get 'em" pilot from visiting the F-117A simulator and touring the 49th Operations Support Squadron tower. The 8th FS Life Support flight geared him in a flight suit and Tad was ready for any mission.



Left: Tad Meneffe, 11, gives a thumbs up from the cockpit of an F-117A. The 8th Fighter Squadron hosted Tad and his family during Tad's special day at Holloman learning about the mission here and the role pilots play in the Air Force.



Photos by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Staff Sgt. Minnie Calizo, 49th Fighter Wing legal office, pushes herself to sprint the last 25 yards of the wing fitness test 1.5-mile run at the canyon Feb. 27.



The 49th Fighter Wing agencies start the 1.5-mile run near the canyon Feb. 27. The Health and Wellness Center tested more than 2,000 Team Holloman members.



Above: The Health and Wellness Center staff timed runners during the wing fitness test 1.5-mile run Feb. 27.

Left: Col. June Gavron, 49th Medical Group commander, cheers on the runners at the wing fitness test.

Fighter Wing on the run

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Health and Wellness Center tested more than 2,000 Team Holloman members during the wing fitness test Feb. 27.

More than 1,600 Team Holloman members scored excellent/good, 218 scored marginal and 284 scored poor, according to the HAWC fitness program manager, Mr. Kevin Fallon.

According to the 49th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Fallon, for the first wing-wide test, things went well.

"The organizers' efforts are commend-

able," he said. "To organize such an event for the wing and pull it off without major problems is a success within itself. I think the participants found the process and instructions easy to follow."

For members who didn't pass this wing fitness test, another test will be designated by unit fitness managers in April. People who don't pass the April test will be entered into the official program.

With new Air Force fitness standards, Air Force leadership encourages the motto, "Fit to Fight."

For more information, call the HAWC at 572-5785.

BRIEFS

Congratulations

Senior Airman Kenneth Wurtele of the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron has been selected to compete in the 2004 Air Force Worldwide Talent Competition March 14 to 22 at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Airman's Magazine

Any organization that needs a copy of Airman Magazine's annual "The Book" issue, should come to the public affairs office, building 29, Room 2800.

Women's History Month

The 2004 National Women's History Month theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility."

The following events are scheduled:

- NWHM luncheon: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 2 in the officers' club. The guest speaker will be Amy Haddad.

- Fashion show, "How to dress for success:" April 8 in the community center. Exact time will be announced.

- The NWHM Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in this noteworthy celebration, and locations where educational displays can be set up.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shelia Davis at 572-5574 or 572-5575 or e-mail shelia.davis@holloman.af.mil, or Mr. Donald Larsen at 572-3439 or e-mail donald.larsen@holloman.af.mil.

Road closures

As part of the ongoing construction of new housing units, a section of Martin Avenue is closed from Monday to March 13. The closed section is from the intersection of Fairchild Drive to Patrick Avenue. This closure will allow the contractors to tie in the new sewer lines and waterlines that will provide that area of housing with service to the existing lines. There will be a detour in place that will affect residents of the following streets: Martin Avenue, Eglin Place, Patrick Avenue, Lockheed Avenue,



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Head 'em up, move 'em out

Maintainers move a static jet from Holloman's Heritage Park Saturday. All of the aircraft were towed to their new locations, just south of building 29, last weekend. The estimated completion date for the new Heritage Park is March 18.

Hughes Avenue, Andrews Drive, Langley Court, Kirtland Place, Griffis Court, Nellis Place, Keesler Court, Lea Loop, Boeing Avenue, Luna Loop, Hidalgo Loop, Otero Loop, Sierra Loop, Sierra Place and Torrence Place.

For more information, please call 2nd Lt. Stacy Nimmo at 572-5832.

Speakers Bureau

Public Affairs is offering Team Holloman members the opportunity to participate in speaking engagements in the community. The Speakers Bureau is a chance for all airmen to tell their story and promote the Air Force at schools, conferences and to non-profit organizations. The Alamogordo community is always looking for airmen of all ranks to speak at their venues.

For information about participating, call Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy at 572-5406.

FSC

The Family Support Center offers the following classes and events at the FSC, building 40:

- Bundles for babies: 1 to 3 p.m., Monday.
- Spouse employment workshop: 1 to 3 p.m., Monday.
- TSP/REDUX: 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday.
- Sponsorship training: 9 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday.
- Resume roundup: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday.

- Families apart dinner: 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday.

For more information, call the FSC at 572-7754 or visit the Web site at www.mil.holloman.af.mil/sptg/mss/fsc.

Red Cross

The Red Cross schedule of classes is as follows:

- Basic first aid: 9 to 12 a.m., Tuesday.
- Community first aid and safety: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 13.
- Adult CPR: 1 to 3 p.m., March 16.
- Infant/child CPR: 9 a.m. to noon, March 18.

All classes are at the Alamogordo branch, 700 E. First St., #765.

For more information, call the Holloman Red Cross at 572-7066.

OSI briefing

Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations is conducting a recruiting briefing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 17 at AFOSI Detachment 225. There will be scheduled interviews on March 18 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the same location. Interested individuals should plan on attending on March 17 and should bring a Records Review RIP with them. You can request a RIP from your orderly room.

For more information on AFOSI special agent duty prior to the team's visit, you can visit our website at www.dtic.mil or contact your local AFOSI detachment at 572-7143.

Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 124 will be selling home and garden candles from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday at the Base Exchange.

Olive Branch

Olive Branch Coffee will open a coffee cart at the 49th Medical Group's Pharmacy lobby this month.

Birthday meal change

The birthday meal has been changed to 6:15 p.m., March 18 at the Shifting Sands Dining Facility.

Dance cancelled

The Hispanic Dance March 12 at the community center is cancelled.

Chapel Services

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.
- General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.

- Protestant Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. at Holloman Intermediate School and Catholic Religious Education, 10:45 a.m.

Special events

- Stations of the Cross and meatless potluck: 6 p.m., today.

For more information about chapel services, call 572-7211.

B On the BIG SCREEN



The Butterfly Effect (R)

7 p.m., today

Cold Mountain (R)

7 and 10 p.m., Saturday

My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

7 p.m., Sunday and Thursday

For a limited time, tickets are 99 cents.

What’s going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond...

Blood drive

The U.S. Border Patrol blood drive is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed 12 to 1 p.m., March 18 at the border patrol office, 1997 Hwy. 54 south. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

For more information call Ms. Herminia Morales 505-437-6960.

Volunteers

The Aristocrat Assistant living home is asking for volunteers to spend time with their residents. They are mainly looking for groups of people to visit their residents and offer some form of entertainment, singing, plays or bands. She also welcomes any group of people who would like to take one night out of the week and play games and talk with the residents. There are about 20 to 40 residents in the home, including a couple veterans.

If any groups are interested in going down to the home for an evening please contact Mrs. Fletcher at 437-3020.

Relay for life

Relay for Life meetings will be held at the community center on from 1 to 2 p.m., March 17 and 31 and April 7, 14, 21 and 28. The Relay for Life event starts April

30. Register for a team for \$10 (each team member) and receive a free Relay T-shirt as a gift.

For more information, call Ms. Beth Markle at 479-6026 or e-mail eam@zianet.com.

Track volunteers

Alamogordo High School seeks volunteers to help with an all-day track meet March 20 and an afternoon track meet April 23.

For more information, call Coach Doc Helm at 443-2000 extension 270

Bereavement meetings

Bereavement for families and friends meets from 6 to 8 p.m., March 17 at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center in the private dining room.

For more information, call Ms. Paige Viscarra at 443-7891.

Deployed family and friends

An open meeting for families and friends of deployed military personnel is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 18 at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center’s private dining room.

For more information, call Ms. Paige Viscarra at 443-7891.



Z-Trans Adds Stops to Stealth, Cottonwood routes

Zia Therapy Center provides public transportation service at a low price

by Ms. Becky Lane
Z-Trans Marketing and Development director

Zia Therapy Center’s Z-Trans added new stops to its Public Transportation Service, starting Monday.

Z-Trans provides Public Transportation Service for the Alamogordo and Holloman communities. Warm, comfortable vehicles are driven by friendly, efficient and helpful drivers. The service is wheelchair accessible.

Z-Trans rides cost \$1 per one-way trip and transfers between routes are no extra charge. Rides can be paid for with exact change, tickets or passes. Tickets and discount passes are available for purchase at the Z-Trans office. Half-price passes are available for those who qualify.

Z-Trans provides service Monday through Friday with two routes; the Cottonwood Route and the Stealth Route. Each route is run seven times per day and takes one hour to complete.

The Cottonwood Route begins at Wal-Mart at three minutes after the hour and finishes at Wal-Mart on the next

hour. It runs in the mornings at 7, 8, 9 and 10 a.m. and in the afternoons at 3, 4 and 5 p.m.

The Stealth Route begins at three minutes after the hour at Wal-Mart and finishes up at Wal-Mart at three minutes after the next hour. It runs in the mornings at 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 a.m. and in the afternoons at 3 and 4 p.m.

The Cottonwood Route and the Stealth Route meet up at Wal-Mart and riders from one route can transfer to the other route at no additional cost. This enables riders from Alamogordo to go to work on Holloman and riders from the base to go to work in town.

The new Z-Trans bus schedules are available at numerous places throughout the Alamogordo and Holloman communities.

To purchase tickets, passes or for more information and bus schedules, call the Z-Trans Public Transportation Service office at 439-4971 or stop by 900 First Street, Monday to Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Schedules are at the following locations: Alamogordo Chamber of Com-

Stealth Route

New stops on the Stealth Route are all on Holloman and include:

- First Street/Santa Fe
- First Street/Dental Clinic
- Delaware/Tabosa
- Communications Bldg/Second Street
- Idaho/Second Street
- Billeting Office
- Fairchild/Mesquite

Stops being removed from the Stealth Route include:

- Santa Fe/Catron Loop HAFB
- Fairchild/Luna Loop HAFB
- Mesquite Road/Andrews Drive

HAFB

- Alamogordo Airport

Cottonwood Route

New stops on the Cottonwood Route include:

- First Street/Scenic
- McKinley/Tenth Street
- Jefferson/Tenth Street
- Health Office/Ninth Street
- Dept of Labor/Ninth Street
- Florida Ave/Indian Wells
- Grace Baptist/Indian Wells
- New Mexico State University Alamogordo
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
- Lawrence St/Desert Sun Motors

Stops being removed from the Cottonwood Route include:

- Washington Park
- Ninth Street/Oregon Ave
- Otero Federal Credit Union/Tenth Street
- Tenth Street/State Police Office
- White Sands/Tenth Street
- Florida Ave/Indian Wells Recycle Bins
- White Sands/Bradley Road
- White Sands/Cottonwood
- Fairgrounds Road/Aero Loop

merce Visitor Information Center, Alamogordo Public Library, Lowe’s Pay and Save Grocery Store, Wal-Mart Super Center, Holloman Base Exchange, Holloman Inn, Holloman Library and Holloman Visitor’s Center.

The service is made possible through a grant Zia received from the Public Transportation Programs Bureau of the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. The City of Alamogordo is providing the required matching funds for the administrative

and operational expenses. Zia is providing the matching funds for capital expenses, which includes the bus.

For more information call the Zia Therapy at 439-4971 or visit the website at www.alamogordo.com/ztrans.html.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from Feb. 17 to Sunday.

Tickets

Security Forces issued 47 tickets: one for failure to dim headlights, five for failure to stop, one for no license, three for no license plate light, three for being parked in a non-designated area, seven for no insurance, four for no registration, four for illegal display of license plate, two for inattentive backing, one for no turn signal, one for improper lighting,

three for careless driving, one for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, two for being parked against the flow of traffic, seven for speeding one to 10 mph over the speed limit and two for speeding 10 to 15 mph over the speed limit.

Property loss, damage or theft

- Feb. 17 – An airman backed his privately owned vehicle into a civilian's POV at building 71.
- Feb. 23 – An airman backed a government-owned vehicle into a wooden box causing damage to the driver's side door.
- Feb. 25 – An airman struck an NCOs POV with a GOV.
- Feb. 26 – A civilian's POV was damaged in the building 29 parking lot.
- Feb. 26 – A civilian reported

that a truck drove by the enlisted club and was too tall to clear the overhang. The truck struck the building, damaging it.

- Feb. 26 – An airman reported a damaged screen in building 35.

Patrol response

- Feb. 23 – An airman reported a verbal altercation in base housing.
- Feb. 26 – An airman reported that his daughter received a harassing phone call.
- Feb. 28 – An airman reported loud music in building 341.

Civil arrest

- Feb. 21 – An airman was arrested in Alamogordo for driving under the influence.
- Feb. 27 – An airman was arrested in Alamogordo for failure to appear in court.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Sniff sniff

Staff Sgt. Derek Nelson and his partner, Blacky, inspect a vehicle for explosive devices during an explosives detection exercise Feb. 25. Sergeant Nelson, a military working dog handler, and the 49th Security Forces Squadron conduct detection exercises regularly to help canines hone their skills.

People encouraged to invest in savings

by Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

A money savvy service-member serving in Iraq did not wait to get back home to buy a shiny new car with his \$30,000 re-enlistment bonus. Instead, he invested all of it into the Thrift Savings Plan.

“Assuming a seven-percent rate of return, his \$30,000 is projected to be \$345,000 by the time he reaches age 60,” said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. “If he continues to contribute to TSP throughout his career, he could have more than \$1 million saved by the time he retires.”

A million dollars is not anything to sneeze at, but Colonel Fenton and other defense officials see a big problem concerning TSP: Not enough servicemembers taking advantage of the program.

“We’re trying to convince people that TSP is a good vehicle for savings,” Colonel Fenton said. “The great thing about TSP is that it’s tax-deferred in pretax dollar savings. So it comes out of your income, and you’re not taxed on it until you use that money later, hopefully in your retirement.”

Colonel Fenton said the plan is also “a good idea for people who don’t plan to make a career of the military, because they can take their TSP with them when they leave active duty.”

Those who leave active duty before retirement could roll their TSP into a 401K plan of a new civilian employer, she said. It could be put into an IRA, or even left in TSP, but no more funds could be added to the account.

“It would just sit there and grow, tax-deferred,” Colonel Fenton said. “I think most people would want to roll it over into some other vehicle that they could continue to contribute to.”

More than 220,000 signed up for TSP in 2002, the first year

the savings plan was opened to military personnel. That figure jumped to more than 390,000 at the end of the open season which ended in December.

That is a healthy increase, but defense officials would like to see thousands more use TSP as one of their savings plans for the future, Colonel Fenton said.

Thrift Investment Board statistics show that the Air Force is second with 21.2-percent participation. The Army has 15 percent. The Marine Corps has 20.2 percent. The Coast Guard has 19.2 percent.

Colonel Fenton said the other two uniformed services, the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also participate in TSP. The health service has 56.4-percent participation, and NOAA is at 68 percent.

“Servicemembers who leave active duty and join the National Guard or Reserve will still have TSP because they could invest in it whenever they’re on active duty,” Colonel Fenton said. “They could even contribute a percentage of their weekend active-duty pay.

“Once they contribute, they’re putting in a percentage of their basic pay,” Colonel Fenton said. “So every time they’re being paid basic pay, some percentage, whatever they selected, which is up to 9 percent, would go into their TSP.”

The amount servicemembers are allowed to contribute and the percentage of pay they can invest increases annually. For example, through November, it was 8 percent; beginning in December, the limit is 9 percent. The annual total of tax-deferred contributions cannot exceed the Internal Revenue Code limit, which is \$12,000 for 2003 and \$13,000 for 2004.

Those who are contributing to TSP from their basic pay are allowed to contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of any incentive or special pay, including bonus pay.

Leaders call for re-energized suicide-prevention efforts

by **G.W. Pomeroy**

*Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs*

After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar-year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50. As of Feb. 24, the service's suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force's acting assistant vice chief of staff urges all airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

"Suicide is not stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it is stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis," Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III wrote in the letter.

"The major components of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement and a focus on prevention throughout the life of airmen and their families, not just when they are suicidal," General Brown wrote.

"Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings," General Brown wrote.

The Air Force requires active-duty and civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

In light of the recent suicides — none of which oc-

curred during operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom — General Brown urged commanders to "review how well we continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program."

The 11 initiatives are outlined in Air Force Pamphlet 44-160, "Air Force Suicide Prevention Program: Description of Program Initiatives and Outcomes." The 11 initiatives are: build community awareness; leadership involvement; investigative interview policy; professional military education; epidemiological database; delivery of community preventive services; community education and training; critical incident stress management; integrated delivery system; limited patient-psychotherapist privilege; and unit risk-factor assessment.

Air Force leaders take a community approach in suicide prevention, encouraging every airman to take responsibility in reducing the number of suicides.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels.

So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Service has issued the 2004 Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and learn how to respond appropriately.

It helps commanders link their people to resources and get them help as soon as possible.

The guide presents information on 35 distressing situations, checklists detailing potential behaviors or signs

reflective of a person's reaction to the distressing event, and responses or resources leaders may want to use in responding to a person's needs. The guide was distributed on CD-ROM to every squadron commander and first sergeant in the Air Force.

The guide can be viewed on the dot-mil-restricted Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <https://www.afms.mil/afspp>.

Team Holloman members have many outlets to help with suicide prevention and awareness. Suicide awareness training is required every 15 months. The classes are determined by each unit.

The following agencies can help with awareness and prevention:

- Life Skills Center at 572-5676
- Chaplains at 572-7211
- Family Support Center at 572-7754
- First sergeants

On the side

Other suicide-prevention tools include:

- "The Air Force Guide for Managing Suicidal Behavior: Strategies, Resources and Tools," an 88-page clinical guide designed to assist mental-health professionals in assessing and managing high-risk behavior.
- The Air Force Suicide Prevention Web site, which is geared toward improving access to suicide prevention information and materials.
- The 2003 Community Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing that includes slides and video.
- The 2003 Leadership Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing involving slides and video. This is geared toward wing, group and squadron commanders.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Floating to victory

Nighthawk forward Bryan Greenwood floats over Tequila Slammer guard Julian Gonzales for a layup Feb. 27 during the Nighthawk win 84-38 at the Mescalero Basketball Tournament. The Nighthawks placed second in the tournament after losing to Team Canoncito 71-61.

Maintainers diagnosed by MDG

9 AMU falls short to 49 MDG in OT

by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public
Affairs

The 9th Aircraft Maintenance Unit suffered a 67-63 loss in overtime Feb. 26 to the 49th Medical Group during intramural basketball hoop action at the Fitness and Sports Center.

MDG Center Joe Noya put the game in action with a quick layup after his team took the

tip off. Consecutive three pointers by AMU forward Larry Morrow put his team out in front by six points, but MDG answered back with a pick off by guard Jason Estrada, putting two layups on the board and his team down by one, 18-17.

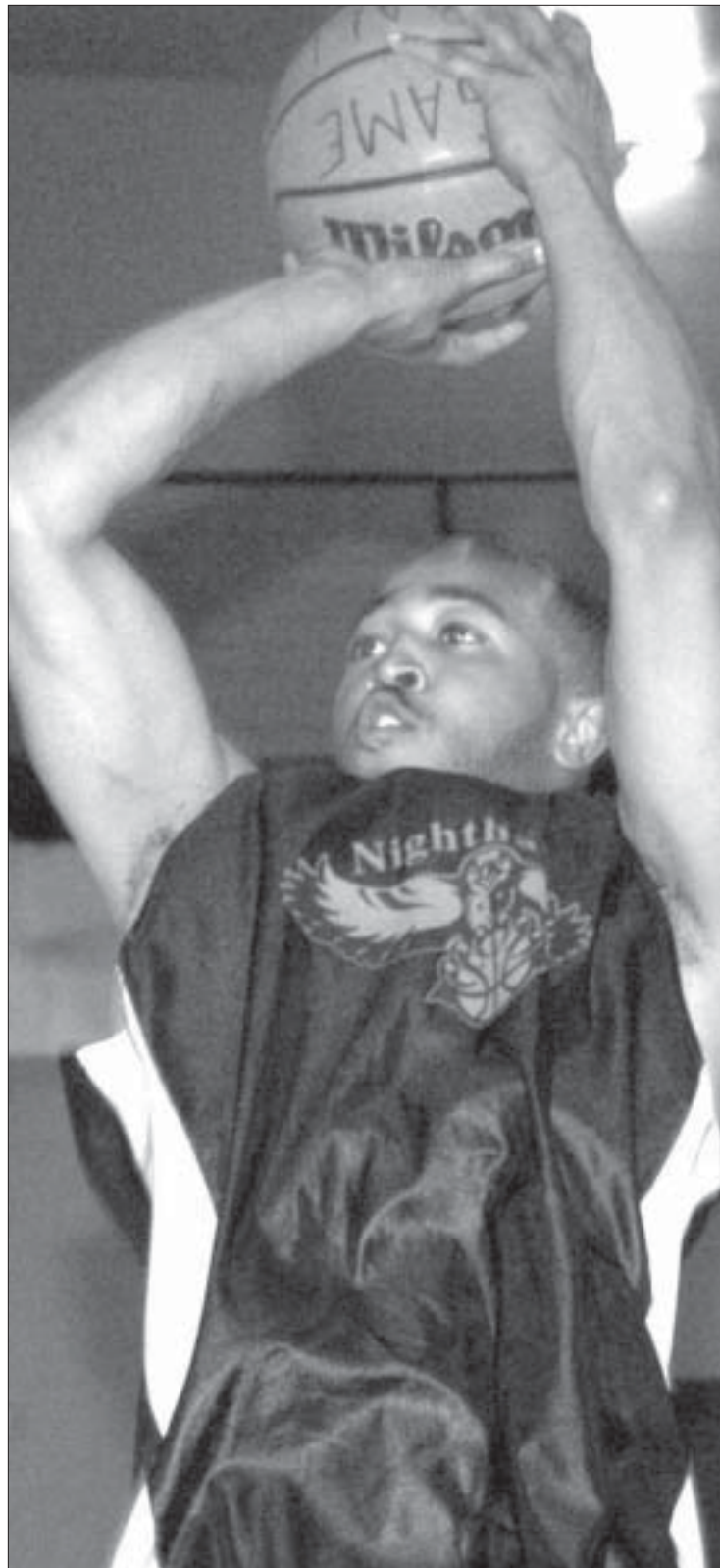
Offensive drives on both sides kept the score close with jump shots back and forth by AMU guard Eric Kennedy and MDG guard Rob Lempke. A final three pointer at the close of the first half by MDG forward Ricky Wilson put his team up by two, 30-28. MDG coach Shane Fisher said his team was showing great team work.

"Our ball movement has been okay," Coach Fisher said. "It's all about working as a team. If we keep drilling the ball home and hit our shots, we'll come out on top."

Three pointers from both sides in the beginning of the second half showed no team was going easy. AMU guard Dwayne Preston popped a three in the basket followed by MDG guard Jason Estrada. The MDG team closed the point gap within three points, but two big three pointers by AMU's Morrow and Estrada pushed the point spread even higher.

Only two minutes remained and the referees entered into the game. Calls on both teams forced foul shots by the MDG team. Down by five, MDG's Lempke picked off a last minute pass for a fast break layup. A jump shot by teammate forward Matt Croker tied the game at 58, forcing it into overtime.

MDG pushed ahead in overtime



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Guard Larry Morrow, 9th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, makes a three pointer during their four-point overtime loss to the 49th Medical Group Feb. 26.

with two foul shots and a technical shot brought on by the AMU's Kennedy. Down by five, AMU's Morrow hit a big three pointer, closing the score within two. Eight seconds re-

mained and MDG's Croker hit a jump shot. A failed three pointer wouldn't be able to bring the AMU back, putting the MDG team up for a 67-63 win.

The Sports Bar

Intramural Standings - Basketball

Large Unit

Team	Win	Loss
49 MXS	11	2
49 OSS A	12	3
49 CES A	9	3
49 SFS	7	6
49 MMG	7	7
9 AMU	6	8
49 MDG	5	10
49 LRS	3	11
8 AMU	2	11

(Current as of Feb. 26)

Small Unit

Team	Win	Loss
46 TG	12	0
49 MSS/FW	10	3
4 SPCS	10	3
746 TS	6	5
49 CES B	6	5
49 CS	5	9
49 CONS	4	9
49 MXS B	2	11
49 OSS B	3	10

(Current as of Feb. 26)

Over 30

Team	Win	Loss
49 CES	11	0
49 MDG	8	3
49 LRS	6	4
49 MXS	6	4
46 TG	4	7
49 SFS	3	8
4 SPCS	0	0

(Current as of Feb. 12)

World of Sports

The Fitness and Sports Center is sponsoring the St. Patrick's Day Fun Run and Walk

Thursday. The first 50 people to sign-up will receive free T-Shirts.

The Alamogordo Adult Baseball League spring season begins Apr. 24. Registration is going on now through the end of the month. Contact TSgt. Nathan Knox at 439-5669.



Center Joe Noya, 49th Medical Group, makes a layup over 9th Aircraft Maintenance Unit guard Larry Morrow during the MDG 67-63 overtime victory Feb. 26.